

Carcharhiniformes

[FAO](#)

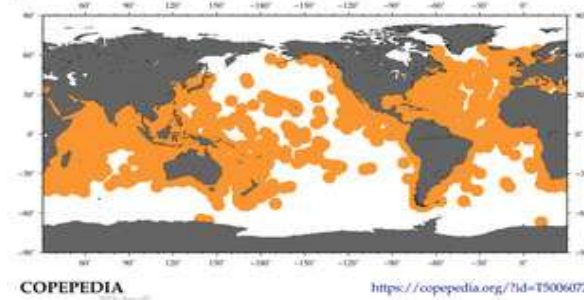
Carcharhiniformes

WCP n/a

ground sharks

Carcharhiniformes, the ground sharks, are the largest order of sharks, with over 50 genera and over 300 species. The distribution area is mainly the coastal regions of tropical to temperate seas. However, the members of the false catshark family are deep-water species.

click on family name on map (Copepedia) to get access to higher resolution version and to maps at genus level



shift + click on fish to get access to photos on Fishbase page

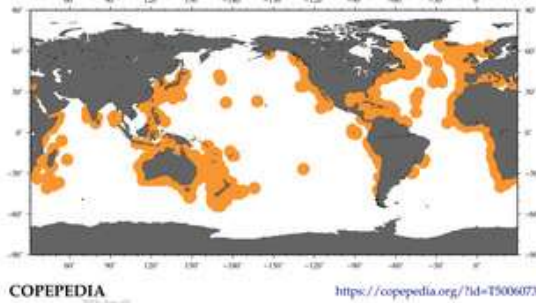
Pentanchidae



Pentanchidae

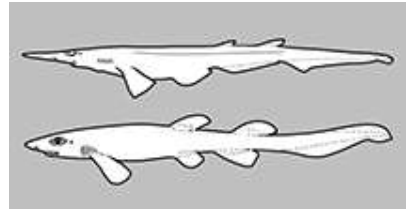
deepwater catsharks

The Pentanchidae were separated from Scyliorhinidae in 2013 and gained *Bythaelurus*, *Figaro* and *Haploblepharus* from Scyliorhinidae in early 2022 by Eschmeyer and in spring 2024 he separated *Dichichthys* from five *Parmaturus* species and entered the new family Dichichthyidae (bristle sharks).



16 cm

marine



410 cm

Dichichthyidae

Dichichthys is a genus of small sharks, formerly belonging to the *Parmaturus* genus (Pentanchidae) that occurs in the western Indian Ocean and the western Pacific Ocean. The distribution area of the fish extends from the coast of Java in the west to the Japanese Ryukyu Islands in the north and extends southeast across the Coral Sea and Vanuatu to the North Island of New Zealand. The five species of the genus live at depths of 170 to 1500 meters. This family was entered in 2024.

57.7 cm

[bristle sharks](#)

marine

85 cm

Scyliorhinidae

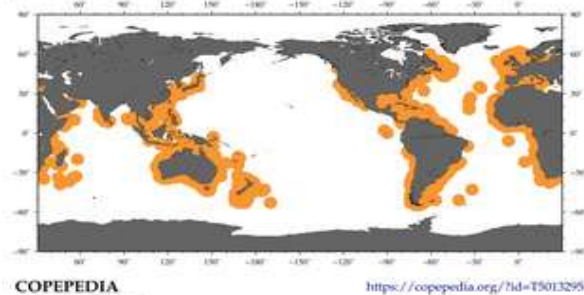
[WCA](#)

Scyliorhinidae

catsharks

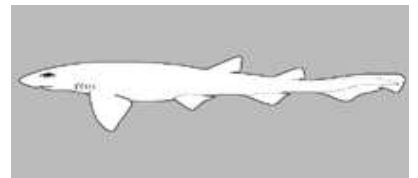
After the segregation of Atelomycteridae in 2022, only 4 genera are left: *Akheilos* (new, placed by Eschmeyer in Pentanchidae), *Poroderma*, *Scyliorhinus*, *Cephaloscyllium*.

Click on family name on map to get access to ongoing Copepedia map.



30 cm

marine



170 cm

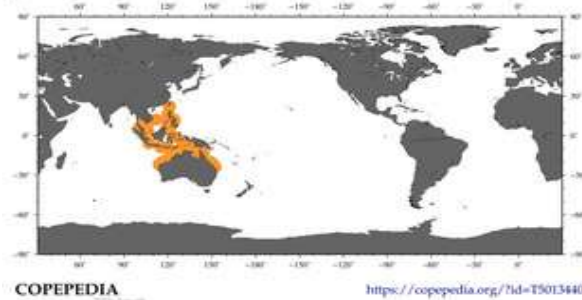
Atelomycteridae



Atelomycterus spp.

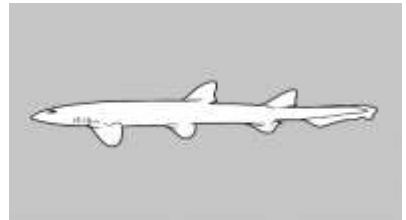
coloured catsharks

In order to achieve the monophyly required in modern systematics, *Atelomycterus*, *Aulohalaelurus* (west and east of Australia) and *Schroederichthys* (map hereunder) were separated from Scyliorhinidae in 2022, and placed in Atelomycteridae.



33 cm

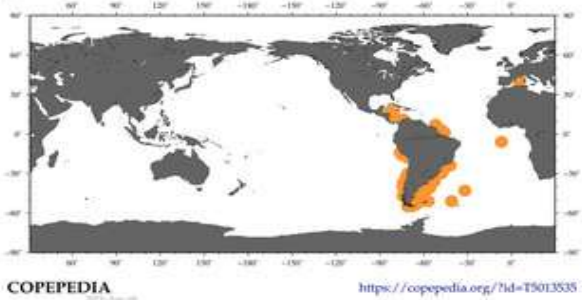
marine



70 cm



Schroederichthys spp.



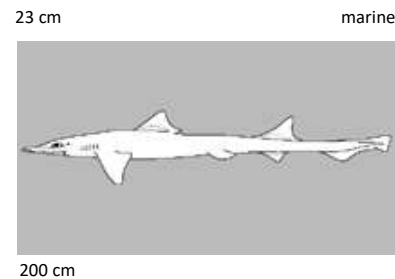
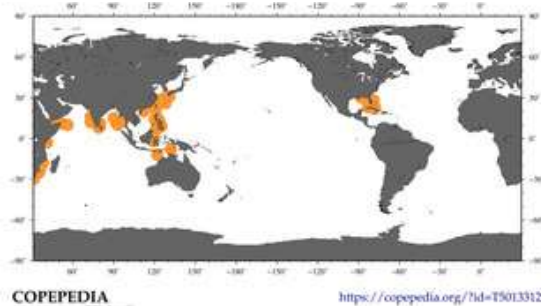
Proscylliidae

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Proscylliidae

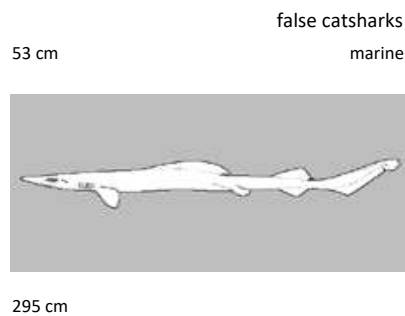
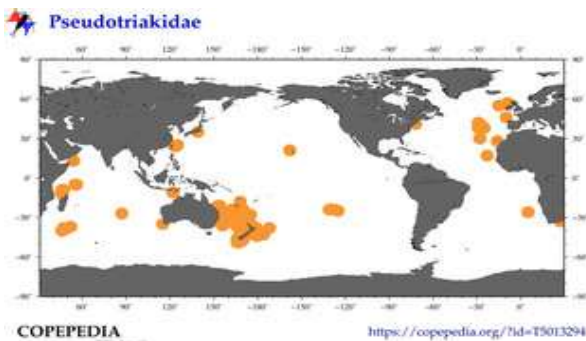
finback catsharks

These can be found in warm seas worldwide and are often the most numerous and common shark in tropical regions. They differ from the cat sharks, which they are very similar to in their external shape, in that the first dorsal fin begins almost immediately behind the pectoral fin.



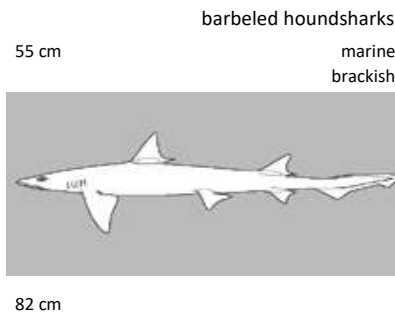
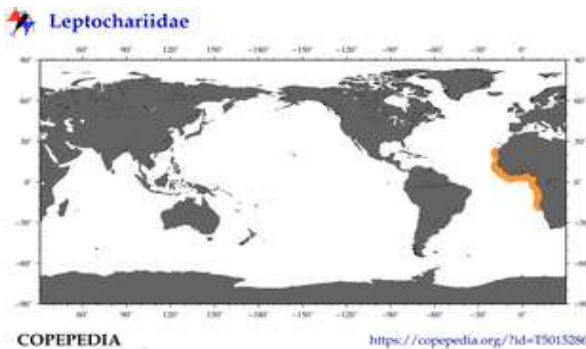
Pseudotriakidae

These include the false catsharks and gollumsharks (genus Gollum). It contains the only ground shark species developing fetuses that are nourished by eggs produced by their mother. They occur at depths of 129 to 1890 meters on the sea floor, continental shelf and continental slopes. Sharks of the Pseudotriakidae family are absent from the South Atlantic and the eastern Pacific.



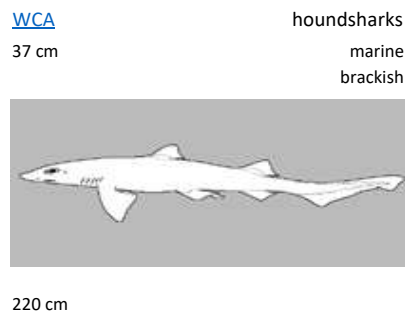
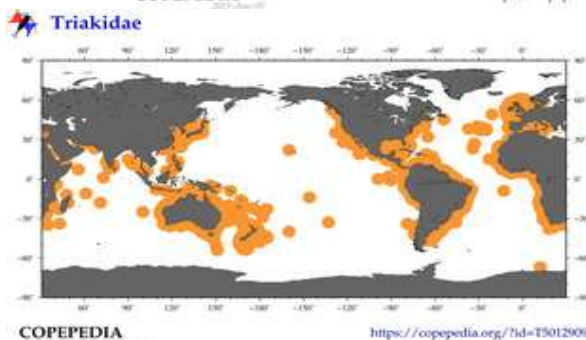
Leptochariidae

The barbeled houndshark occurs along the western coast of Africa from Mauritania to northern Angola, though it may range as far north as the Mediterranean Sea. This species inhabits inshore waters 10–75 m deep, with temperatures of 20–27 °C. It is typically found close to the bottom over mud, particularly around river mouths. It favors muddy habitats, particularly around river mouths.



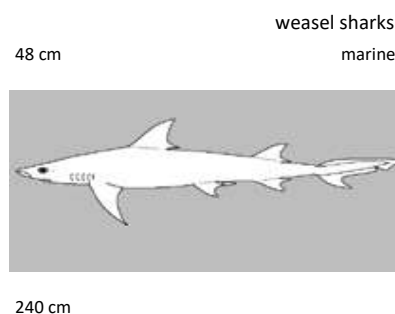
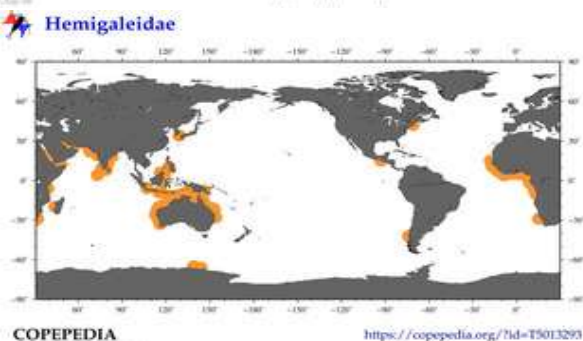
Triakidae

These are small to medium in size, ranging from 57 to 220 cm in adult length. They are usually grey or grey-brown in colour, unpatterned, with a lighter underside. Almost no houndshark lives in the open oceans; The school shark (*Galeorhinus galeus*) is known to be able to live pelagically.

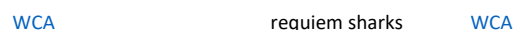


Hemigaleidae

Weasel sharks live at depths of up to 100 meters and are found from the eastern Atlantic Ocean to the continental Indo-Pacific. They mostly eat small bony fish, small sharks and rays, crustaceans and echinoderms, some species feed mainly on cephalopods. Most species reach a length of one meter. Their eyes are oval in shape and are set horizontally.



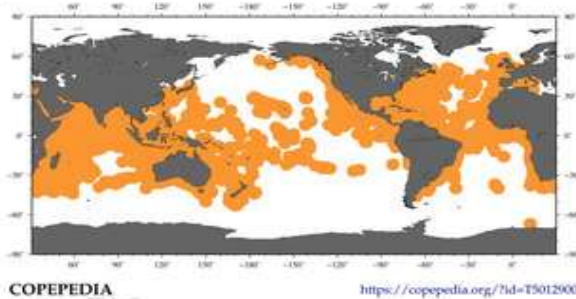
Carcharhinidae



The common name requiem shark may be related to the French word for shark, requin. Their eyes are round, and one or two gill slits fall over the pectoral fin base. Most requiem sharks hunt alone, however some species like the whitetip reef sharks and lemon sharks are cooperative feeders and will hunt in packs through coordinated, timed attacks against their prey.

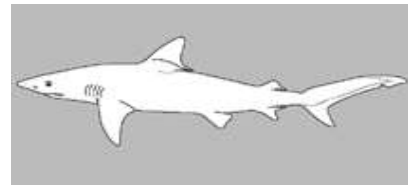
[Galeocerdonidae](#)

The tiger shark (*Galeocerdo cuvier*) is virtually omnivorous. These are often considered the "garbage cans" of the seas because they will eat almost anything, even non-food items like trash. Galeocerdonidae was separated from Carcharhinidae by Eschmeyer in 2021.

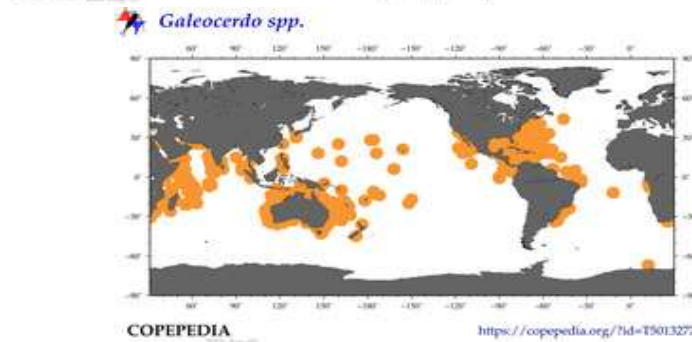


43 cm

marine
(brackish fresh)

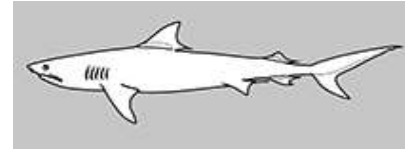


420 cm



500 cm

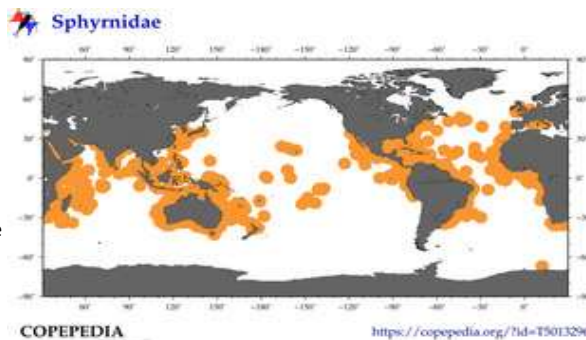
tiger sharks
marine



750 cm

[Sphyrnidae](#)

The positioning of the eyes, mounted on the sides of the shark's distinctive hammer head, allows 360° of vision in the vertical plane, meaning the animals can see above and below them at all times. In addition to the typical animal prey, bonnetheads have been found to feed on seagrass. They may swallow it unintentionally, but they are able to partially digest it.

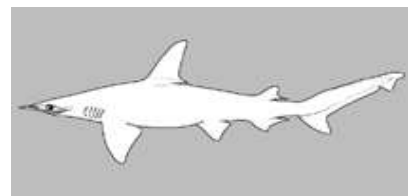


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hammerhead sharks

47 cm

marine
brackish



610 cm